

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 NRC-05
DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 OES-07
CEQ-01 /149 W

-----120360 241437Z /43

O 241319Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7414
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3789

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PORG, UNSC, SF, NI
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNSC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITY
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REF (A) USUN 1064, (B) STATE 74812

1. NIGERIAN VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITY TENDS
TO BE EMOTIONAL AND ILL-INFORMED. SEAN MCBRIDE SPEECH AT
ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE INTER ALIA ALLEGED
THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS TESTED BOMB AND THAT SAG ACHIEVED ITS

NEW FOUND CAPACITY WITH AID FROM US, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY TENDS TO BE ACCEPTED VIEW HERE INsofar AS ANYONE CONSIDERS PROBLEM.

2. NIGERIANS UNLIKELY TO APPRECIATE THE NUANCES OF PEACEFUL VERSUS MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. IN CONVERSATIONS LAST SEPTEMBER WITH OFFICERS OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA, QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY THINK TANK) PREPARING A "REPORT" ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NO AWARENESS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NUCLEAR REACTORS AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE AN ATOMIC BOMB. MOREOVER, THEIR EMOTIONAL COMMITMENT WAS SO STRONG THAT THEY HAD NO INTEREST IN LEARNING THE DIFFERENCE WHEN IT CONCERNED SOUTH AFRICA.

3. WE CONCUR WITH USUN (REF A) THAT A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO NIGERIA ALONE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SUFFICIENT GIVEN LINGERING FRANCOPHONE RESENTMENT OVER NIGERIA'S SC ELECTION AND WITH IMPLIED JUDGMENT (REF B) THAT NIGERIA ACTING OUT OF IGNORANCE OF TRUE SITUATION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN LAGOS IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. THERE ARE ONLY THREE NIGERIANS WHO MIGHT FOLLOW ISSUE WITH ANY SERIOUSNESS, COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA, AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN AT UN AND MEA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT AMBASSADOR SANU. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE SANU IS DEEPLY INVOLVED ON A DAILY

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BASIS WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA AND COMMISSIONER GARBA IS SIMILARLY INVOLVED WITH A MULTILATERAL MEETING DISCUSSED IN SEPARATE TELEGRAMS. THEREFORE, INCLUDING ITEM IN PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING BOOK AS SUGGESTED REF A PROBABLY BEST APPROACH.

4. WE AGREE THAT OBASANJO'S RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO BE AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 5 REF A. PROPOSED RESPONSE BY PRESIDENT IS ALSO APPROPRIATE BUT WE FEEL THAT UNLESS PRESIDENT IS ABLE TO OBTAIN A COMMITMENT FROM OBASANJO ON ISSUE, IT IS UNLIKELY FMG WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO A LATER BRIEFING BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL.

EASUM

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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